

ACTION EUR-00

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RELEASED IN PART

B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(C), 1.4(D)

INFO	LOG-00	AID-00	AMAD-00	INL-00	DODE-00	DOTE-00	PERC-00
	DS-00	EB-00	FAAE-00	FBIE-00	VCI-00	H-00	TEDE-00
	INR-00	JUSE-00	VCIE-00	NSAE-00	NIMA-00	OPR-00	GIWI-00
	SCT-00	DOHS-00	FMPC-00	SP-00	SSO-00	SS-00	DSCC-00
	PRM-00	G-00	SAS-00	SWCI-00	/000W		

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FM AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5053

INFO EU MEMBER STATES IMMEDIATE

CIA WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T LUXEMBOURG 000037

E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/01/2036

TAGS: PREL, PTER, PINR, EUN, LU

SUBJECT: REPORT OF POSSIBLE CIA FLIGHTS IN LUXEMBOURG

Classified By: A/DCM Dan Foote; Reason: 1.4 (C) and (D)

1. (S) Summary:

Later in the day, in an open session of Parliament reported in the local press, Foreign Minister Jean Asselborn responded to a related question by stating that planes from a company linked to the CIA had landed at Findel airport on January 30 and 31, and inferred that he did not believe these were linked to rendition or movement of prisoners. His comments elicited calls from another parliamentarian for a possible investigation by the Council of Europe.

End summary.

2. (U) During February 1 debate about a draft bill related to human rights and the Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg, in an open session of Luxembourg's Chamber of Deputies (Parliament), Socialist MP Lydie Err asked FM Asselborn whether the GOL was aware of flights, either through Luxembourg airspace or transiting Findel airport, carried out on behalf of foreign intelligence services. During a recent parliamentary assembly at the Council of Europe, the Luxembourg delegation was tasked with researching whether

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such flights had taken place in their home country.

3. (U) FM Asselborn surprised the audience by replying that on January 30 and January 31, 2006, planes from a company linked to the CIA had landed at Findel airport. According to Asselborn, those planes refueled in Luxembourg, handled by Findel Airport administrator Luxair, and immediately flew back to Frankfurt, where they had came from. Asselborn added, &I was told that no passengers were on board either of these planes and that nobody entered or exited those planes in Luxembourg. The planes were medium-range aircraft, and carried out technical flights as described in the freight papers.8 Asselborn also stated that there was no indication that such doubtful flights (read rendition flights) had taken place over or on Luxembourg territory, and the GOL knew nothing about dubious detention centers where alleged terrorists were kept secretly. He added that the GOL had no precise information about such detention centers in Europe or other places in the world. He commented: &We were not asked to give our opinion and, if we had been, you know what we would have replied.8

4. (U) Christian Social MP Marcel Glesener welcomed FM Asselborn,s frankness and he described these flights as more than unusual. Glesener considered those flights suspicious and argued that they cannot have landed in Luxembourg for no particular reason. He commented that this was a perfect case to be investigated by the Council of Europe. Jacques-Yves Heynckes, from the populist right-wing party, requested FM Asselborn to brief the parliamentary committee in charge of these issues, in order to find out whether those flights were simply banal or whether Luxembourg had been used for the transportation of prisoners.

5. (U) RTL radio performed additional research and announced that the planes which landed in Luxembourg were Boeing 737 models, belonging to the fleet of Richmond Aviation. RTL reported that Richmond Aviation is owned by Wells Fargo Bank. According to RTL, this charter company can be found on a list held by the Council of Europe and is suspected of performing flight services for the CIA.

6. (U) Asselborn's comments have been reported by local RTL radio, RTL television, conservative daily French-language newspaper La Voix, conservative German-language daily newspaper d'Wort, and liberal German-language daily newspaper Journal. Ambassador will host a previously scheduled lunch with Delegate Foreign Affairs Minister Nicolas Schmit on February 2, and any related discussions will follow SEPTTEL. WAGNER

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